

SPECIAL PLACES

A Newsletter of The Trustees of Reservations

Summer 1993

Rockin' for the Rock House

West Brookfield was hoppin' on April 29th! Residents of the town put together a fun-filled day of activities to raise money for the Rock House Reservation and to welcome The Trustees of Reservations to the neighborhood. We couldn't have asked for a more pleasant "how do you do!"

Early in the morning, students from the West Brookfield Elementary School decorated the town common with brightly colored banners they had made entirely from recycled plastics. Then they joined with members of the West Brookfield Senior Center for a short opening ceremony and a walkathon around the common. Once they completed the course, Bill Payne treated students and seniors alike to a horse-drawn hayride.

Things really got wild after lunch, when residents of the nursing home gathered in a room decorated by the West Brookfield third graders for a bonafide "Rockathon for the Rock House." Floorboards squeaked, chairs creaked, and the crowd cheered as the rockers went to town!



West Brookfield seniors and students joined forces for an Earth Day walkathon to benefit Rock House Reservation.



Winnifred Keelor cuts the ribbon, signaling the start of the day's events.

Parents, members of the Senior Center, and staff from the Quaboag Nursing Home donated treats for a bake sale — a popular spot for those who finished the walkathon. And Marion Dumas, a resident of the Quaboag Nursing Home, donated a hand-crocheted afghan that was raffled off.

The end result of this all-out community effort was a \$1,500 donation to the Rock House Reservation start-up fund — a tremendous show of support from the residents of West Brookfield. The Trustees extend heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the events and very special thanks to the three individuals responsible for organizing the Earth Day celebration: John Dyjack, principal of West Brookfield Elementary School; Shirley Walker, Activities Director for the Quaboag Nursing Home; and Annie Wolfe, Director of the West Brookfield Senior Center. 🍷

Central Region

73

Rock House Reservation

West Brookfield
(75 acres)

Rock House Reservation takes its name from a massive, cave-like rock shelter that was exposed after the last glacial retreat, some 10,000 to 13,000 years ago. Because of its large size and its southeastern exposure, which captures the early morning sun and provides protection from the prevailing winter winds, the Rock House was used regularly as a winter camp by Native Americans.

In the fall of 1930, the Rock House was "dug" by a team of amateur archaeologists. Unfortunately, no field notes or artifacts survive, and no satisfactory account of their excavation was ever written. The information gleaned from one newspaper article recounting the excavation suggests that materials recovered from the Rock House were similar to those at several other sites in the area: pottery sherds; bone tools; shell; deer, bear, rabbit, raccoon and turkey bones; a wolf's tooth; stone flakes; and a broken projectile point.

In the early 1800s, the rock shelter became part of William Adams's farm on Ragged Hill, and remained in the family for many years. Over a century later, a pond was put in next to the Rock House and a cottage built on the ledge overlooking it. Today, the cottage has been renovated as a small

Clip this description and save it with your Property Guide!

open-air pavilion — a delightful spot for a picnic or for quiet reflection.

The reservation is rich in wildflowers, ferns and mosses. It boasts an abundance of *crustose* (crusty) and *foliose* (leaflike) lichens on the massive augen-gneiss granite rock outcrops and ledges. The area also supports a wide range of native tree species: oak, maple, pine, ash, birch, spruce, hornbeam, sassafras, and aspen, among others. The varied habitats on the property provide food and cover for an equally diverse population of animals, birds and reptiles, including wild turkey, white-tailed deer, coyote, blue heron, flycatcher, painted turtle, green frog and ribbon snake.

Visitors can enjoy hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature study, picnicking and photography on the reservation. Rock House Reservation is open daily from 8 AM to sunset.

Directions: Route 9. From the Massachusetts Turnpike, take Exit 8 for Palmer. Go north on Route 32 into and through the center of Ware, where Route 32 and Route 9 combine. When they separate, bear to the right and stay on Route 9 east for 1.1 miles to parking and entrance on the left.

Rock House Reservation was a gift, with endowment, of Walter F. Fullam in 1993. The property is being preserved in memory of William Adams.



The Trustees of Reservations is dedicated to preserving for public use and enjoyment properties of exceptional scenic, historic and ecological value throughout Massachusetts. Founded in 1891, it is the world's oldest land trust.

Today, The Trustees own and manage 75 properties, totaling more than 19,000 acres, and protect an additional 7,900 acres through the use of conservation restrictions.

The Trustees of Reservations is a private, non-profit organization and relies for support entirely upon membership dues, contributions, admission fees, grants and endowments.

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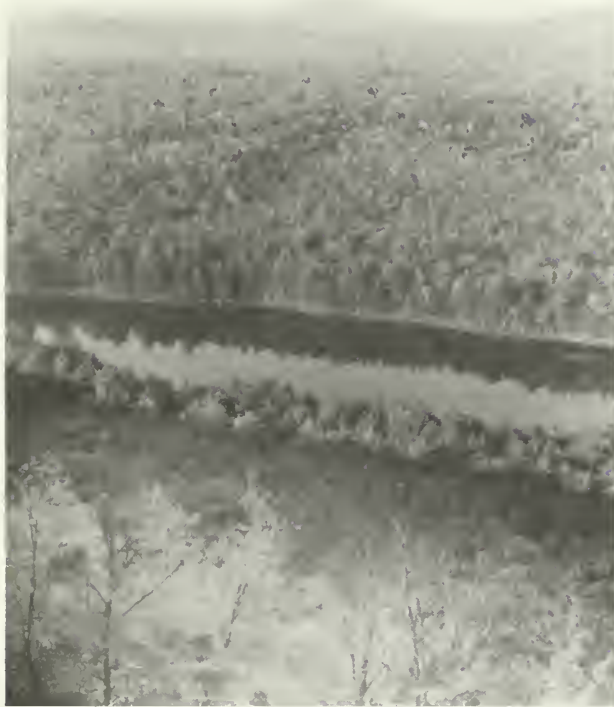
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Newsletter Editors

Protect our rivers and open space



Strong legislative action will help ensure that landscapes like this one, viewed from Jacobs Hill Reservation in Royalston, remain intact and protected. Photo by John Green.

For the rivers, streams, and open space of Massachusetts, this could be one of the most productive legislative sessions in many years. That is, *if* our state legislators hear from you, by phone and mail, urging them to enact and sign into law both the Open Space Bond and River Protection Act.

In the acquisition and protection of open space, Massachusetts has been a national leader, with major commitments made by the Commonwealth in 1983 and 1987. Even during the current recession, the state has found ways to make important purchases. Now several acquisition programs have reached or are quickly reaching previously authorized limits. The Trustees' Director, Frederic Winthrop, Jr., emphasizes, "It is time for a new open space bond authorization to replenish important programs and to address today's needs and priorities. As we emerge from the recession and the real estate market heats up again, we must have these authorizations in place."

On May 19th, The Trustees' Standing Committee enthusiastically welcomed our new Secretary of Environmental Affairs, Trudy Coxe, who promises to

be a staunch advocate for open space protection. She predicted that Governor Weld will soon announce his support for a major new open space bond authorization containing major features of particular interest to us and our land trust colleagues:

- The Commonwealth Land Conservation Trust, a new vehicle to expedite open space protection based on creative partnerships between public agencies.
- Re-funding of the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program for purchasing development rights to protect important farmlands — a program begun fifteen years ago under then Commissioner of Food and Agriculture, Frederic Winthrop, Jr.
- Re-funding of programs to acquire land, restrictions, or easements protecting wildlife habitat, coastal open space, water supply watersheds and aquifers, urban open space, hiking trails, bikeways, additions to the state park system, and historic and archeological sites.
- Innovative new programs to restore wildlife habitats, acquire storm-threatened coastal property, develop the state's geographic information system, and monitor the coastal environment.

The River Protection Act

Though these funding programs are an essential investment in the future of our environment, they cannot do the whole job. Rivers, for example, are the arteries of our landscape; their environmental integrity cannot be protected through purchase and donation alone. To address this need, The Trustees of Reservations supports the Massachusetts River Protection Act. It would establish a 150-foot wide, no-build, protective buffer along rivers and permanent streams throughout the state. Within densely developed areas and certain urban municipalities, the buffer would be reduced to 25 feet in width. Existing development is grand-fathered and variances are available from conservation commissions in the case of hardship or to avoid a constitutional taking.

According to Wesley Ward, The Trustees' director of land conservation, "This is the most important Massachusetts land protection initiative since the state's endangered species act. Its passage is a critical step towards ensuring the natural integrity of our rivers and streams, their value as corridors for wildlife, and their scenic beauty and recreational potential."

The River Protection Act passed the Senate by a 36 to 3 vote in May and is now in the House, where opposition is tenacious. Your state representative needs to hear that a strong river protection act is important to you.

For further information on the Open Space Bond or the River Protection Act, contact Virginia Slack, Administrative Assistant for the Land Conservation Center, at 508-921-1944. ♡

C ♦ A ♦ L ♦ E ♦ N ♦ D ♦ A ♦ R

A Listing of Updated and Newly Scheduled Events

A ♦ U ♦ G ♦ U ♦ S ♦ T

Daily until SEP 15 Island Natural History Tours
Chappaquiddick and Nantucket. 508-693-7662

Enjoy a rare opportunity for a barrier beach safari in off-road tour vehicles. Common sights are rare shorebirds (piping plovers and terns), hawks (northern harriers and osprey), and unique beach flowers. Tours offered twice daily until mid-September. Member adults \$27. Non-member adults \$30. Children under 15 \$15.

SAT, AUG 28 The Crane Beach Sand Blast!

Crane Beach, Ipswich. 508-356-4351

Enjoy a day on the beach at Crane's first competition for sandscape architects of all ages. *Please use the registration form on page 7.*

SAT, AUG 28 Iron to Build a Nation

Colonel Ashley House, Ashley Falls. 413-298-3239

Ore mined from the hills around the Ashley House shaped colonial cannons during the American Revolution. People and events associated with this local war effort, including Col. Ashley, will be discussed. 2 PM. Members \$3. Non-members \$5. Please call to register.

S ♦ E ♦ P ♦ T ♦ E ♦ M ♦ B ♦ E ♦ R

FRIDAY MORNINGS, SEP, OCT & NOV

Birds and More

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Every Friday at 8 AM in the fall, you can join us for a guided bird walk or natural history tour at Bartholomew's Cobble. Observe the fall migrants and wildflowers in one of the most beautiful seasons of the year. Member adults \$1, children 6-12 free. Non-member adults \$3, children \$1.

SAT, SEP 4 Canoeing to the Cobble

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Paddle and explore the habitats and ecology of the Housatonic River near Bartholomew's Cobble. *Reservations required, limited canoe rentals available. 8:30 to 11:30 AM. Member adults \$10, children 6-12 \$3. Non-member adults \$12, children \$4. Canoe rental additional.*

TUES, SEP 7 - TUES, OCT 26

Great House Tours

Crane Memorial Reservation, Ipswich. 508-356-4351

Tour the 59-room mansion designed by architect David Adler for Richard T. Crane, Jr., who marketed the first decorative bathroom ensembles in the early twentieth century. Tours between 1 and 4 PM. Member adults and children free. Non-member adults \$5, children \$3. Seniors \$3. Contact Betsy Hathaway for more information.

FRI, SEP 10 Edith Wharton, "The Inner House"

Crane Memorial Reservation, Ipswich. 508-356-4351
Frances West explores the life of American writer

Edith Wharton in her dramatic one-woman show, *The Inner House*. Performance at 8 PM, picnicking on the allee from 6 PM. Admission \$20 for adults and children. *Please reserve tickets in advance.*

SUN, SEP 12 Science for Kids:

Fossils and Dinosaurs

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Is there a child who is not fascinated with dinosaurs? Explore the story of dinosaurs and recreate a fossil dig with naturalist Francine Segan. For children 3 to 8 years old. By pre-registration only. 10 to 11 AM. Member adult with child \$5. Non-member adult with child \$7.

SAT, SEP 18 Hawks over Monument Mountain

Monument Mountain Reservation. 413-229-8600

Monument Mountain can be one of the best places in southern Berkshire County to observe the early migration of raptors. Meet at Monument Mountain Reservation, hike to the top and enjoy incredible views. Naturalist Don Reid will talk about the history of hawks and assist with their identification. Bring a picnic. 9 AM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SUN, SEP 19 A MEMBER'S EVENT

Hog Island Day

Hog Island, Essex and Ipswich. 508-921-1944

Escape to this spectacular property for a day. Bring a picnic and meet at Crane Beach between 9:30 and 10:30 AM (*free parking for registrants*). We will transport you to the island, where you can embark on a self-guided walking tour. Listen to songs of sea and shore sung by Daisy Nell and David Coffin. Members who want to come in their own boats are welcome; however, no launching or docking facilities are available. *Please use the form on page 6 to register.* For more information, contact Susan McGarvey.

SUN, SEP 19 - OCT 1 Olden Days, Golden Days

The Old Manse, Concord. 508-369-3909

Enjoy the charm of everyday life as Sarah Ripley experienced it at The Old Manse from 1846-1867. House tours: 10-4:30 PM weekdays, Sundays 1-5 PM. Closed Tuesdays. Members free. Non-member adults \$4.50, children 12 and under \$2.50, seniors \$3.50.

SUN, SEP 19 Wildflowers of Fen and Fall

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Naturalist Alva Sanborn will lead this fall colorfest. From purple asters to grass-of-parnassus and the great blue lobelia: a survey of precious autumn color. 10 AM to noon. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SAT-SUN, SEP 25-26 Beginnings of Fall

Swift River Reservation, Petersham. 508-840-4446

Nature is set for the changing of the seasons. Join us for a program of discovery with naturalist John Foster. Topics include botany, animal signs and

habitat identification. Bring binoculars and a picnic lunch. Sat 9 AM - 1 PM or Sun 1 - 5 PM. Member adults \$15. Non-member adults \$20. Children 12 and under free. *Pre-registration required.* Call Dick O'Brien.

SAT, SEP 25 Volunteer Work Day

Noanet Woodlands, Dover. 508-785-0339

Work will focus on trail maintenance. Bring lunch, hand tools, bug repellent, and your family! We have work for all ages. 9 AM to 1 PM. Meet at Caryl Park, Dover. For additional information or to register, call Mark Bailey.

SUN, SEP 26 Country Picnic and Concert

Norris Reservation, Norwell. 617-821-2977

Bring a picnic and join us for an afternoon of entertainment with the United Brass Quintet. Pumpkin raffle. Complimentary cotton candy and popcorn. 1 to 4 PM. Member adults free. Non-member adults \$3. Children under 12 free.



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SAT, OCT 2

Where in the Woodland is Carmen San Diego?

Brooks Woodland Preserve, Petersham. 508-724-3459

Fun-filled family adventure! If you're a fan of the boardgame "Clue," you'll love this woodland mystery game. Find the clues, follow the trail and solve the crime! *Whooo* did it? What did they use? Where did they do it? Prize drawing at the end of the day. Member adults \$5, children 6-12 free. Non-member adults \$7.50, children free. Seniors \$5.

SAT, OCT 9 Autumn at the Cobble

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Follow the fall season in this naturalist led walk. Observe and feel the pulse of nature as the fall colors emerge, and the trees, flowers and wildlife prepare for the rigors ahead. 9 AM to 2 PM. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SUN, OCT 10 Science for Kids:

Children's Treasure Hunt

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Find hidden treasure by discovering fun, interesting and educational clues created for children under 12 (or under six) by Francine Segal. Everyone receives a prize. 10 to 11 AM. Member adult with child \$5. Non-member adult with child \$7.

SAT, OCT 16 Map and Compass Workshop

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Have you ever been lost in the woods? You will stay "found" by learning the basics of map and compass interpretation and using topographic maps of the area. Naturalist and back-country guide Scott Jackson will teach this roving, outdoor workshop. 10 AM to noon. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SAT, OCT 16

Old Town Hill Canoe Outing and Picnic

Old Town Hill, Newbury. 508-921-1944

Explore the Little River on the incoming tide. Plan to launch at 10 AM. Meander through the marshes and enjoy views of Old Town Hill. Then hike to the top of the hill with your picnic for guided walking tours of the property. Limited canoe rentals available. *Please use the form on page 6 to register.* For more information, contact Susan McGarvey.

SUN, OCT 17 Fall Foliage Picnic

Rocky Woods Reservation, Medfield. 617-821-2977

Bring a picnic and enjoy the fall foliage at one of our most popular properties. Guided walks, games for children and tractor-drawn hayrides will all be offered. The Marine Modelers Club will also be on hand to demonstrate their scale model remote-controlled boats on Chickering Pond. Noon to 4 PM. Member adults free. Non-member adults \$2. Children free.

SAT-SUN, OCT 23-24 A Natural Halloween

Swift River Reservation, Petersham. 508-840-4446

Nature has a special way to prepare for Halloween. Discover her secrets with Naturalist John Foster. Topics include weather, animal signs and wildflowers. Bring binoculars and a picnic lunch. Sat 9AM - 1 PM or Sun 1 PM - 5 PM. Member adults \$15. Non-member adults \$20. Children 12 and under free. *Pre-registration required.* Call Dick O'Brien.

WED, OCT 27 Halloween at Castle Hill

Crane Memorial Reservation, Ipswich. 508-356-4351

National storyteller Judith Black brings out the ghosts of Castle Hill with her spooky tales. Awarded the "Gold Medal Family Entertainer of the Year" by the *Boston Parent's Paper*, Judith Black creates a living world in the minds of the audience, powered only by the imagination. Cookies and punch are served in true "trick-or-treat" tradition. 4 PM. Admission \$5 for children 4-12, \$10 for adults. *Please reserve tickets in advance.*

SAT, OCT 30 All Hallows E'en

The Old Manse, Concord. 508-369-3909

The ghost of Sarah Ripley will introduce eerie characters from Hawthorne's dark tales. 5-8 PM. Members \$4, non-member adults \$5, children under 12 \$2.

N♦O♦V♦E♦M♦B♦E♦R

SAT, NOV 6 Waterfowl on the River

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

Early November can be a great time to search for migrating duck. Join Naturalist Don Reid as we walk along the Housatonic River in our search for ducks, identify them and learn about their life histories. 9 AM to noon. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

SAT-SUN, NOV 20-21 Patterns of the Woods

Swift River Reservation, Petersham. 508-840-4446

John Foster, Interpretive Naturalist, will help us identify several local species as the animals settle in for the

winter. Bring a lunch or snack and binoculars.
Sat 9 AM - 1 PM or Sun 1 - 5 PM. Member adults \$15.
Non-member adults \$20. Children 12 and under free.
Pre-registration required. Call Dick O'Brien to register.

FRI-SUN, NOV 26-28

SAT-SUN, DEC 4-5 Ante-Bellum Christmas

The Old Manse, Concord. 508-369-3909

Celebrate the Christmas traditions of Sarah Ripley and her family at The Old Manse. House tours: 10-4:30 PM weekdays, Sundays 1-5 PM. Closed Tuesdays. Members \$4. Non-member adults \$5, children 12 and under \$2, seniors \$4.

SAT, NOV 27 The Winter Forest

Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls. 413-229-8600

The challenge is to identify trees when the leaves are gone. Walk the Cobble and focus on the natural history of trees. 10 AM to noon. Member adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1. Non-member adults \$5, children \$2.

❖ REGISTRATION ❖

For Hog Island Day and Old Town Hill Outing

Please register soon, as space is limited at these events. Members are welcome to bring non-member guests. A confirmation letter with directions will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation. Mail this coupon with your check to:

TTOR Membership Office
572 Essex Street
Beverly, MA 01915-1530

- ☐ **Sun Sept 19: Hog Island Day**
Number in party ___ x \$15 per adult/
\$3 per child 6-12.
- ☐ **Sat Oct 16: Old Town Hill Outing**
Number in party ___ x \$5 per adult/
\$3 per child 6-12
Rental canoe(s) ___ @ \$35 each.
Canoes seat 3 adults or 2 adults and
2 children.

TTOR Donor # _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

(_____) _____
Phone

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

If only we had...

- ☆ two legal-size, two-drawer file cabinets and a security file for storage of title certificates, deeds, etc. If you can help with this request, please contact Virginia Slack in the Land Conservation Center office at 508-921-1944.
- ☆ an EMT "Jump Kit" to enhance the safety program at Doane's Falls in Royalston. A fully stocked first-aid/EMT kit would be a real lifesaver! Call Dick O'Brien, Central Regional Supervisor at 508-840-4446.
- ☆ a volunteer willing to assist in general office duties in the Central Regional Office. Answering correspondence, filing, book-keeping, scheduling, etc. Minimum of 5 hours per week, please. Contact Dick O'Brien, Central Regional Office at 508-840-4446.
- ☆ a 30-foot fiberglass flagpole for Crane Beach. If you can supply one, please call Peter Pinciario at 508-356-4351.
- ☆ turn of the century clothing and accessories for the William Cullen Bryant Homestead. Men's or women's large size summertime attire is needed to be used for tours and other special "costumed" events. Please contact Cindy Volk at the Homestead (413-634-2174) if you can help.
- ☆ a 2-drawer, legal-size file cabinet and a metal flat file for the Southeast Regional Office. If you can help, please call Mary Campbell at 617-821-2977.
- ☆ a wood-burning furnace for use in the Southeast Region. Warm the heart of Al Yalenezian by calling 617-740-7233.
- ☆ binoculars (6), spotting scopes (2), 35mm camera & lenses, and a personal computer with printer for the Islands Ecology Program. Wow! — what we could accomplish. Please call Tom Chase at 508-693-7662.
- ☆ a baby grand piano for the main house at Field Farm in Williamstown. We'd be happy to accept a loan or a donation. Call Andrew Bernardy at 413-458-3144.

The Crane Beach Sand Blast!

A COMPETITION FOR SANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28TH • 8 AM-4 PM

CRANE MEMORIAL RESERVATION, IPSWICH

Calling all aspiring sculptors and lovers-of-fun! Join us at Crane Beach as we kick off an event sure to become a summer tradition — *The Crane Beach Sand Blast!* Put together a team of "sandscape architects" and start planning now to create the sand sculpture of your dreams!

GRAND PRIZES OF \$300, \$200, AND \$100

PLUS MEDALS TO THE TOP THREE ENTRIES IN EACH CATEGORY

ALL PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED BY POPULAR VOTE.

Sandscape permits are required for all entries. Sandscape architects must follow the Rules and Regulations for the *Sand Blast!*, as well as those posted at Crane Beach. Permits and beachfront parking are limited. Pre-registration and early arrival at Crane Beach are strongly suggested.

FEES: ADVANCE REGISTRATION — INCLUDES SANDSCAPE PERMIT

\$12 GUARANTEED BEACH ADMISSION FOR ONE CAR

\$9 FOR MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

DAY OF EVENT — ALL SANDSCAPE PERMITS \$5

\$12 PER CAR FOR BEACH ADMISSION

\$9 PER CAR FOR MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

GATES & REGISTRATION

OPEN AT 8 AM

BALLOTING CLOSES

AT 2:30 PM

PRIZES AWARDED

AROUND 3 PM

HIGH TIDE: 9:20 AM

LOW TIDE: 3:10 PM

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY,

AUGUST 29TH. CALL

(508)356-4354

THE DAY OF THE EVENT

FOR WEATHER INFO.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL THE *Sand Blast!* HOTLINE AT (508)356-4351



The Crane Beach Sand Blast!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1993 • CRANE MEMORIAL RESERVATION, IPSWICH • 8 AM-4 PM

CONTACT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: DAY (____) _____ EVE (____) _____

Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of registration.

Pre-registrations accepted through 21 August 1993, space permitting.

All registration fees are non-refundable.

CATEGORY:

- ☐ Kids (ages 12 and under)
- ☐ "Build-your-own" Family
(any combination of children and adults)
- ☐ Adults (ages 13 and up)
- ☐ Design Professionals

☐ Enclosed is my \$12 check to pre-register me for the event of the season.

☐ Enclosed is my \$9 check to pre-register me (TTOR member # _____) and my team for the event of the season.

Make checks payable to The Trustees of Reservations and mail to: The Crane Beach Sand Blast! P.O. Box 563, Ipswich, MA 01938.

Address Correction Requested

508-921-1944
Beverly, MA 01915-1530
572 Essex Street

Conserving the
Massachusetts Landscape
Since 1891

of Reservations

The Trustees

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S ♦ H ♦ O ♦ R ♦ T ♦ S

◆ Thanks to **Hank Wolf**, **Liz Howden** and **Carol French** who responded to the newsletter request for helping hands in the Membership Office. In April alone, they contributed a total of 82 volunteer hours. We'd be delighted to hear from more members who can volunteer at least three hours a week.

◆ **Barbara Gifford**, a Norwell resident, is the Volunteer Coordinator for the New Member Welcoming Program in the Southeast Region. The goal of the program is to welcome new members by making a personal connection on the telephone. We hope to solicit feedback and find out about their particular interests. Barbara has developed the program and is seeking others to help her make calls. This requires just a few flexible hours per month. Coordinators and callers are also being sought for other regions of the state. Please call Susan McGarvey in the Membership Office at 508-921-1944 for more information.

◆ The Trustees tapped some talented brain power this spring to help optimize their Geographic Information System (GIS). MIT masters student **Nina Wissa** conducted marketing analysis to determine the potential for selling GIS services to other organizations. The marketing study relied on helpful input from several other land conservation organizations, including Essex County Greenbelt, Mass. Audubon, and Sudbury Valley Trustees. The Towns of Dover and Manchester also contributed valuable insight and information. Thanks to all participants!

◆ **Lisa Gustavsen**, a graduate student at Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, tackled another GIS question for The Trustees. For her GIS project, Lisa assessed the trade-off between accuracy and cost of the different data that are available to run a GIS. The results of her study will help The Trustees make cost-efficient data acquisition decisions.

◆ Special thanks to **Philip A. Picariello**, whose construction company donated an incredibly efficient half day's work with back hoe to fill a large crater in the burning area at Long Hill and bury stumps, brush and boulders.

◆ **Laura Lea Sager** began work this spring as the Long Point Wildlife Refuge Manager for The Trustees. A SUNY graduate with a degree in Environmental Studies, Laura also holds an MS in Forest Resource Management from SUNY, Syracuse. Laura brings a wide range of skills to her work at The Trustees, including spatial modeling and analysis with ARC/INFO and IDRISI geographic information systems and their application to natural resource planning and management!

